GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3139
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
LOSS TO NATIONAL HORTICULTURE BAORD
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board has suffered loss of Rs.90.60 lakh due to release ofloan and subsidy to private limited company without obtaining bank guarantee during 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have enquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against the officials found responsible;

(f) whether frauds are also being committed in the sale and purchase by the Kendriya Bhandarin Connivance of the officials with the suppliers;

(g) if so, whether there is any proposal for scrutiny of the sales and purchase in the Kendriya Bhandar during the last two years; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (e): It has come to the notice of the Government that in one of the cases, the NationalHorticulture Board (NHB) has released Rs.54.29 lakhs as loan and Rs.5.00 lakhs as subsidy to a Private Limited Company in the absence of bank guarantee, during 1994 and 1995. In Para 2.2 of Report No.4 of 2000 (Civil) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for the yearended 31st March, 1999, it has been estimated that NHB has suffered a loss of Rs.90.60 lakhs, onthis account upto April 1999. It has been decided to hold a departmental inquiry to ascertain, inter- alia, administrative lapses on the part of the NHB officers.Separately, NHB has also filed two court cases in this regard. One is the Civil Suit for the recovery of NHB`s loan/subsidy alongwiththe penal interest filed in the District and Session Court, Gurgaon, and the another one is a criminalcase where the Police after investigation filed challan in the District and Sessions Court againstManaging Director of the Company. The criminal case is now before the Hon`ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh.

(f): No case of fraud committed in sale and purchase by Kendriya Bhandar has come to the notice of the Government.

(g)&(h): Do not arise.